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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/739,840	12/20/2000	Nobuhiro Saitou	826.1646/JDH	3885
21171	7590	09/22/2005	EXAMINER	
STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			NGUYEN, KIMBINH T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2671	

DATE MAILED: 09/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/739,840	SAITOU, NOBUHIRO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Kimbinh T. Nguyen	2671	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 November 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 6, 11, 13 and 15 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 5, 7-10, 12, 14 and 16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to amendment filed 11/16/04.
2. Claims 1-3, 5-16 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 5, 7-10, 12, 14 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Microsoft Organization Chart in view of Usuda (5,469,539).

Claim 5, Microsoft Org Chart discloses a display unit displaying a graphic including a first object, a plurality of second objects connected to the first object and a third object connected to the plurality of second objects (fig 15)., and an editor deleting the plurality of second objects and connecting each of the first object and the third object when the plurality of second objects is selected (figs 15-17) but does not teach automatically connecting objects when the objects are selected; however, Usuda teaches the names of new hierarchies such as flow chart, a PAD diagram can be provided arbitrarily by the user or automatically with the data processor (col. 4, lines 8-35). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate automatically creating a new hierarchy for the selected plural objects taught by Usuda into the Microsoft Chart for editing objects,

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because it would provide a system to update information between specification information in a state of logical relation of the object selected, and for creating or deleting a new hierarchy; col. 2, lines 37-56).

Claims 7, 12 and 16, Microsoft Org Chart discloses a graphics editing device, comprising: a display unit displaying a graphic including a first object, a second object and a third object that are connected in series (fig 2); an editor automatically deleting the second object and connecting the first and the third objects when the second object is selected and dragged (figs 21-23) to a predetermined area (fig 14). Although Microsoft Chart does not teach automatically deleting the second object; however, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the automatically deleting the second object, because in fig. 22, the second object has been selected and dragged into a predetermined area (the next column), and fig. 23 shows the second object has been deleted (by a computer system which uses Microsoft Chart Application) from the first column and moved to the next column for creating a new chart including only the first and third objects (fig. 23).

Claim 8, the rationale provided in the rejection of claim 7 is incorporated herein. Microsoft Org Chart discloses a graphics editing device, comprising: a display unit displaying a graphic including a first object, a second object and a third object that are connected in series (fig 2); an editor deleting the second object and connecting the first and the third objects when the second object is selected and dragged (figs 21-23) to a specific relative position from a position of the graphic (fig 14).

Claim 9, Microsoft Org Chart discloses said editor corrects a distance between the first and third objects according to a predetermined condition (figs 1-3).

Claim 10, Usuda discloses a management unit managing a sequence of the objects, said management unit manages the third object as a subordinate object to the first object if the second object is subordinate to the first object and the third object is subordinate to the second object before the second object is deleted (col. 5, lines 51-58). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate creating subordinated level as taught by Usuda into the Microsoft Chart for creating detail information, because it would provide detail information in the top down order from the upper level to the lower level in designing the logic of the program (col. 1, lines 44-47).

Claim 14, the rationale provided in the rejection of claim 7 is incorporated herein. Microsoft Org Chart discloses a storage medium that stores a program executed by a computer, the program comprising: a program code of displaying a graphic including a first object, a second object and a third object that are connected in series (fig 2); and a program code deleting the second object and connecting the first and third objects when the second object is selected and dragged (figs 21-23) to a predetermined area (figs 3 and 4).

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 1-3, 6, 11, 13 and 15 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art does not teach a storage unit, coupled to said display unit, to store a first table with position information that indicates a position of each object displayed on said display unit, a second table with line information that identifies the lines connecting the first, second and third objects, and a third table with preceding information that identifies an object preceding each object; and an editor, coupled to said display unit and said storage unit, to delete the second object and to connect the first and third objects according to contents of the first, second and third tables in said storage unit, when the second object is selected, said editor adjusting a position of the first and third objects on said display unit to adjust a distance between the first and third objects, if the distance between the first and third objects after the second object is deleted is larger than a predetermined threshold.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed 11/16/04, with respect to claims 1, 11, 13 and 15 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejections of claims 1-3, 11, 13 and 15 have been withdrawn.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kimbinh T. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-7644. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 7:00

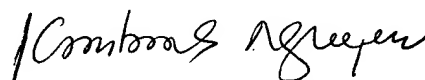
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AM to 4:30 PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Friday from 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ulka Chauhan can be reached at (571) 272-7782. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

September 19, 2005


KIMBINH T. NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER